Gandhidham-Mundra NH-8A (Extn.)

1907. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule prepared by NHAI for the starting and completion of work of land acquisition for four-laning of Gandhidham-Mundra section of NH-8A (Extn.); and

(b) whether there is any plan to develop this section on Public Private Partnership format?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Kandla-Gandhidham-Mundra Port section covering a length of 73 km has been identified under National Highway Development Project (NHDP), Phase-IIIA on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis which includes Gandhidham-Mundra section of NH-8A (Extn.) NHDP Phase-IIIA is on Public Private Partnership format. Bids for consultancy services for preparation of feasibility-cum-preliminary design of this stretch have been received by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) from the consultants. It is too early to give time schedule for land acquisition at this stage.

Scheme to provide financial assistance to minor ports

1908. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide financial assistance to take up projects of minor ports of the States by the Union Government.

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take up the project under Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is a Scheme for Assistance fo Maritime States/Union Territories for Development of Minor ports. The assistance is given to the Maritime States/UTs for the purpose of making feasibility reports, environment impact assessment studies, hydrographic and other technical surveys, preparation of bid documents etc. The scheme does not cover

actual execution of projects. The assistance is given in the form of grant-in-aid and is on reimbursement basis after expenditure is incurred by the Maritime States/UTs. The share of the Central Government is restricted to 50% of the expenditure incurred by the State Government/UTs in a particular year subject to an annual ceiling of Rs. 20 lakhs. There is, presently, no proposal under consideration under this scheme.

Road safety norms

1909. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are spreading awareness about safety norms and important legal provisions among people while driving;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also engaged groups to perform street plays on this year's 'Road Safety Week' theme, 'Avoid over-speeding and over-loading', at schools, residential localities and community halls to spread awareness;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are emphasizing on educating school children, their parents and school authorities about the precautions to be taken with regard to vehicles ferrying students;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(g) whether some Transport Departments have also brought out brochures for parents containing Do's and Don'ts information about road safety; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Enforcement of various provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 including aspect of road safety is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, this Department is undertaking audio-visual campaign on radio and television to propagate road safety. This Department is also distributing publicity material on road safety through Transport Department/Traffic Police of all the States to propagate road safety messages amongst the road